

CLAIM 1:

1. (Currently Amended) A refractory device for use in the teeming of molten metal, comprising a ceramic pouring tube element 10, supported [in] by a metallic can 11, in which a ceramic support element 12 is encapsulated and a shock-absorbing interface zone 13 is located between said [metallic can 11] ceramic support element 12 and the ceramic pouring tube element 10, in which zone there is provided a material the thermal properties of which are such that it is substantially solid at ambient temperatures but becomes deformable at elevated temperatures experienced during metal teeming, said shock-absorbing interface zone 13 being isolated from molten metal poured through the ceramic pouring tube element 10.